

OGC Has Reviewed

4 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel White

SUBJECT : Allowance of Claims for Baby-Sitter Fees Incurred
by Agency Personnel

1. In connection with the problem of whether or not to authorize baby-sitter fees incurred when actual expenses are authorized for escorting and entertaining foreign visitors, I have been advised that three specific instances have arisen to date:

a. One claim was withdrawn and administratively disallowed by the division concerned, so it did not actually get to the point of being a test.

b. Another situation, detailed facts on which are unknown, occurred in [] and at present there is the sum of \$7.50 in fees in suspension on this station's accounts.

c. A third situation arose in connection with Project []
The charges here amount to \$31.45 and are the result of fees expended on 23, 24 and 25 April 1955.

2. The General Counsel has indicated that the claims appear to be allowable if they are incident to the wife's presence "in making operational contacts." It is also suggested that the immediate supervisor and the station chief (or, I presume, the division chief at headquarters) certify that it was necessary for the wife to be present and for a baby sitter to be hired.

3. As a general rule I would feel that the two and three-dollar baby sitting fees incurred by attendance at cocktail parties perhaps should not be covered by the Agency. In a case such as the \$31.45 claim, however, where the wife was taken away for three days, I feel that the baby sitting fee would be a bona fide expense to be covered by the Agency.

4. I would like to suggest that we advise the Comptroller that there is no legal objection to covering this type of expense when necessary for the proper performance of an Agency mission. He should explore, however, the possibilities of establishing administrative guidelines or

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standards with DD/P to make sure that the ability of the Agency to cover this type of expense was not abused and used for a variety of nuisance type claims.

5. Might the instructions to the Comptroller and the preliminary exploration take place orally, rather than in writing at this stage? I would be glad to talk with Messrs. [] if you wish.

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